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- a. a plurality of hoops comprising a plurality of interconnected struts, said stent having a proximal end hoop and a distal end hoop wherein said distal end hoop and said proximal end hoop are configured to have greater radial and longitudinal strength than the hoops therebetween;
  - b. a plurality of sinusoidal rings connecting adjacent hoops to one another; and
  - c. proximal and distal attachment devices for securing a graft member to the substantially cylindrical radially expandable stent.

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5. (Amended) The stent according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said distal and proximal end hoops is flared so as to have a larger diameter than a hoop adjacent thereto.

Please cancel claims 6-22 without prejudice.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner is requested to approve the changes to the drawings as shown in red on the copies of Figures 4, 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 25 attached to the accompanying Request For Approval of Drawing Amendment.